

Feb. 17, 1967

Approved For Release 2004/12/15 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000700500002-1

Org. 1 Independent Research
 Pers. Theroux, Eugene

CIA 2-04.2 Student groups

Pers. Steinem, Gloria

'Everyone Will Think We're CIA Agents Now'

'Research Service Inc. Abhors The Spotlight'

WASHINGTON — In the movies, anyway, it could be a front for spies.

You walk along Connecticut Ave. with the women shoppers until you enter a door labeled Emile Beauty Salon and at the end of a short hallway take a balky elevator up to the third floor offices of Independent Research Service, Inc.

Four airy rooms with green carpeting. Pamphlets and literature in the waiting room. Maps on the wall. Nothing stirring in the four rooms except for a tallish young man with a bow tie who is embarrassed to find himself caught in the furor over Central Intelligence Agency subsidies to student groups.

"Everyone will assume now that anyone working for a youth group is ipso facto a CIA agent," says Eugene Theroux, 28, director, and, except for a secretary, the sole staff member of Independent Research.

Independent Research has been identified, unofficially, as one of the youth groups which received

funds from a foundation allegedly supported by the CIA — the Independence Foundation.

Theroux acknowledges the organization received money from the foundation. Was it CIA money?

"Not to my knowledge," says Theroux.

Independent Research Service was established in 1958 prior to the 1959 Vienna Youth Festival and after a series of festivals denouncing the West as "Fascist" and praising the Soviet Union as "peace loving."

The purpose of the Independent Research Service, as Theroux describes it, was to advise American students of the political implications of the festivals and to prepare them for a hostile atmosphere.

The service also reportedly financed American student trips to the Helsinki Festival in 1962, the last one to date.

The service was organized, he says, by a group of students at Cambridge, Mass.

Was it actually sponsored by the CIA in order to have the American viewpoint presented at the festivals?

Theroux, sitting behind a desk with a mug of coffee in front of him, shakes his head.

"I just don't believe they did," he says.

One of the founders of Independent Research, free lance writer Gloria Steinem, said cryptically in a statement in New York yesterday:

"How and where I co-operate with my government is my business, and I don't wish to be put in a McCarthyite position of commenting on other individuals... The work of the Independent Research Service was liberal, necessary and constructive."

The Independence Foundation, according to Internal Revenue Service files, gave the Independent Research Service \$125,000 in 1962, the year of the Helsinki meeting. Earlier IRS records were not available.

(Associated Press)

BOSTON TRAVELER 17 FEB 67